



# Good News

From the WNALC



## Chair's Corner

Dear sisters in Christ,

Borrowing some words from the Apostle Paul, grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



**Jill Nesheim**

Being elected to The Women's Council (TWC) and now serving as the chair is pretty mind blowing for me. I picture myself a church kitchen lady – a Martha who wants to be more like Mary.

The Body of Christ is my family and is very precious to me. Because I thrive when I have a healthy church family, I want all my sisters in Christ to have that same fellowship.

The human body has over 37 trillion cells. How many cells does the Body of Christ have? Christ is the head, the brains, the heart and the soul. I am just ONE cell in His body. TWC is comprised of just seven of those cells.

The point I am trying to make is that we seven together have a purpose and a place, but by ourselves we are a very small body. Just seven volunteers who, up until being elected to the council, were just kitchen ladies, Marys and Marthas in our churches.

What's Inside?	
1	Chair's Corner
2	Welcome Our New Council Members
2	"Rejoice in the Lord" Bible Study
3	Looking Ahead – Advent 2021
4	Book Review: Ragged
4	Mission Minded
5	Annual Gathering Recap
6	Operation Guidelines – Proposed
7	Financial Matters
8	Mission District News
9	The Back Page

Bishop Selbo greeted the women who attended The Annual Gathering and talked about the importance of being in partnership. TWC has the motto "Connecting our sisters in Christ to share God's love." TWC has ideas and plans for connecting women, but we can't do it with just seven women. We need you! You are a part of the team. If you are a woman and a member of any NALC church, you are automatically a member of the WNALC. This includes all of you, even our female pastors.

At this year's Annual Gathering TWC recommended, and the attendees approved, continuing to support NALC Disaster Response and the Great Commission Society of the NALC through your annual Mission Bank donations. As you know, WNALC has partnered with Mary Bates and NALC Disaster Response for many years, and now we look forward to developing a similar relationship with the Great Commission Society of the NALC.

As a council of seven, we desire to build stronger connections with and between you, across mission districts, mission regions, and mission areas. We plan to reach out to you more. When we do, please respond. We want to hear your concerns and ideas! We are fortunate to have the methods of modern technology to easily connect through Facebook, our newsletters and by email. For those who do not use any of these, we hope your church offices will help by being a point of contact. Also, don't forget that we are always willing to attend your mission district women's gatherings and retreats as time allows.

Please pray for us as a council to move forward with the mission and vision first started 10 years ago.

Love in Christ,

Jill

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

(1 Corinthians 16:23-24)

## Meet Our New Council Members

**Ruth Reitmeyer** has been married to Pastor Ralph Reitmeyer for 48 years. Her husband is pastor of St. James Lutheran Church, and they live in Llano, Texas, with their two cats. Ruth and Pastor Ralph have two grown children, Rachel and Ryan, who are both married and have blessed their parents with a total of five grandchildren.

Ruth and her husband were married 10 years before her husband entered seminary. She had a varied career working mainly in professional fundraising for universities and private schools. Her pre-retirement job was working as a para-professional at the local high school. She is currently retired.

When Ruth is not working on their circa 1880's house, she serves as a volunteer in her community and as a mentor at the elementary school. She is also an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), loves to garden, read, bake, travel, and is teaching herself photography. Ruth serves her church as primary musician.

Her Bible verse for this year is "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).



**Amy Werner** served on the WNALC council from 2015-2017. During that time, she became the producer of the "Big Map", a very large map of the United States showing the NALC congregations in each state, and facilitator for the Mid-Northeast Mission District. She has also been the facilitator for the Atlantic Mission Region since it was formed. During her new term on council, Amy will continue to serve in those areas as well as strive to build a network of facilitators across the mission districts of the NALC as the team leader for the newly formed Mission District Facilitator ministry team.

Amy's husband Mark is a pastor, and she has an active 15-year-old son, Jordan. She and her family

recently moved to Pittsgrove, New Jersey when her husband received the call to serve at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Elmer.

Working with the women's ministries at the regional, district and congregational level keeps Amy busy. Within her mission region, Amy leads retreats and gatherings. At church, she leads the livestream team, sings in the choir, and assists with women's events.

Amy has an elementary teaching degree and works as a substitute teacher at her local elementary school. She also volunteers with the Boy Scouts and enjoys baking, sewing, Sudoku and traveling.

## Spiritual Growth

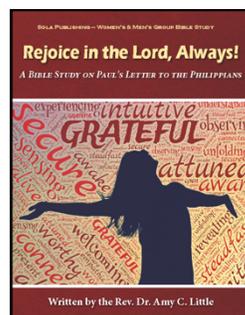
### WNALC Online Bible Study

The time is fast approaching to begin our first online Bible study with sisters in Christ from across the country. We are going to study *Rejoice in the Lord, Always: A Bible Study on Paul's Letter to the Philippians*, written by the Rev. Dr. Amy Little. The study will begin the week of October 17, 2021 and run through the week of May 15, 2022.



**Peggy Jording**

We will host "rooms" on the WNALC Facebook group page where we can connect without the need to download an app or create another account. Each meeting leader will have her own room. Members of the WNALC group page will be able to click on the "Rooms" link to locate and access the different meetings from the WNALC main page\*\*.



To meet the schedules of women across the country, a variety of meeting times and days will be available. For example, Peggy is scheduled to lead the study on Mondays at 3:00 p.m. EST (2:00 p.m. CST) and Jill will lead the

Continued page 3

Bible Study, Continued from page 2

same study on Thursday evenings at 9:00 p.m. EST (8:00 p.m. CST). After checking the schedule and determining which class best fits your needs, you will look for that leader's room. The full schedule of meeting days and times is posted on the WNALC group page.

Our goal is to keep the study time short, usually around 20 minutes, while also giving you options in the event you have a scheduling conflict. If something comes up that will cause you to miss your normal meeting, we hope that you will drop in to one of the other meetings during the week. Everybody will be doing the same study and covering the same material each week. To keep our online study times short, we will do only a part of the lesson every week and take several weeks to complete each lesson.

Time is getting short so if you have not already done it, please order your copy of the participant guide through the Sola Publishing website: [solapublishing.com](http://solapublishing.com)

\*\* The rooms link might show up in different places on the group page, depending on the device that you use. If you are unfamiliar with Facebook Rooms, please take time before your first meeting to locate and explore the meeting rooms on the device that you will be using. If you have any trouble locating your link or have any other questions about the study, please contact Peggy, Jill or Kim. You will find our email addresses on the last page of the newsletter.

Check our Facebook page for the schedule and more information. See you there!

## Looking Ahead – Advent 2021



**Ruth Reitmeyer**

With all the busyness and anticipation of fall activities, we tend to forget that Advent is right around the corner. At the time of this writing, I'm sure most of us are preparing for Halloween, Thanksgiving and fall activities. We are not even thinking about Advent. Do you realize the first Sunday of Advent this year – the beginning of the Church Year – will be

celebrated November 28? That is only three days after Thanksgiving!

So often we tend to be a "Martha"; we get busy and begin to panic that we will not find enough time to do everything. Perhaps this year we make the decision to be a "Mary" and take 20 minutes daily to sit at Jesus' feet to learn through prayer, devotions and listening.

Following are some suggestions to enrich our lives during this Advent season:

Advent calendars, wreaths and candles help us to focus on Christ's coming each day during the season. Many Advent calendars come with Bible verses and activities that can enhance this time. Advent wreaths can be lit each night (we light our Advent wreath after dinner and have Advent devotions). If an Advent wreath is not available, four candles will suffice.

Daily devotions: The Lutheran lectionary is a good source, as is the annual NALC Advent Devotional. Many more resources can be found through Sola Publishing. The book of Luke contains 24 chapters – try reading one chapter each day throughout Advent. Find a Christmas carol and study about the origins; "O Come O Come Emmanuel" is an excellent hymn to research and sing during this time.

Sit quietly and listen to Advent and/or Christmas carols for 20 minutes. Pray and reflect during this time.

These are just a few ways to use this time to prepare your hearts for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Please feel free to share Advent ideas on the WNALC Facebook page or send stories and photos from your Advent activities to Kim by November 15th to be included in the December newsletter.



## Book Review

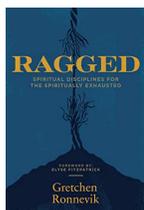
*Ragged: Spiritual Disciplines for The Spiritually Exhausted* by Gretchen Ronnevik

In July, I spent a week at Mount Carmel Ministries in Alexandria, Minnesota. Mount Carmel is Christian family retreat center which has provided rest, renewal and recreation under the theme of "Jesus Only" since 1938. Our speaker for the week was Gretchen Ronnevik, author of *Ragged*.



**Marcella Nelson**

The topic of both her book and the presentation was spiritual disciplines for the spiritually exhausted. Gretchen told me she was inspired to write this book because "she couldn't get a handle on her schedule being a farm wife with a busy family life"



In my conversations with Gretchen, she said that trying to find time for "quiet time" was a struggle for her and devotions written with guidelines for "how to" seemed like trying to push buttons to make God work.

"When we mistake spiritual disciplines for to-dos, time slots on our schedule, or Instagram-able moments, we miss the benefits of Christ's continual and constant work for us. In *Ragged*, Gretchen Ronnevik aims to reclaim spiritual disciplines as good gifts given by our good Father instead of heavy burdens of performance carried by the Christian.

Only when we recognize our failure to maintain God's commands do we also realize the benefit of our dependence on His promises. Gretchen uses this distinction of Law and Gospel presented throughout Scripture to guide readers through spiritual disciplines including prayer, meditation, Scripture reading, and discipleship among others." (From the book's back cover.)

You can view a video introduction to Gretchen's book on her YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/Ol-s0qwx8k>.

## Mission Minded

At the 2021 Annual Gathering of the WNALC, The Women's Council (TWC) recommended that we adopt NALC Disaster Response and the Great Commission Society of the NALC as our continuing Mission Bank recipients. All members of TWC agreed that this was a wise move, and the recommendation was approved.



**Kim Isiminger**

Mary Bates is tireless in her efforts to reach out to congregations and promote the work of her



organization. She makes sure that we are all aware of NALC Disaster Response and enables us to be a part of the amazing work they do to help those impacted by floods, fires, storms and more. She spoke at the Annual Gathering in Corpus

Christi and expressed her heartfelt thanks for the flood buckets, health and school kits, quilts, blankets and Bibles that they receive each year. Natural disasters keep coming and this creates an ongoing need to restock the regional NALC Disaster Response warehouses.

In a recent email from Mary, she reported that due to the western wildfires and damage caused by Hurricane Ida, disaster response's regional warehouses need restocking. Their goal is to have all warehouses fully stocked prior to spring flooding. Just in case you have misplaced them, the kit packing list and updated list of regional warehouses will be attached to this newsletter. You will find more information online at [thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response/](https://thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response/).



Most of us are not as familiar with the work the Great Commission Society (GCS) of the NALC does to spread the Gospel at home and around the world. From their website, I learned their purpose is to "mobilize disciples for the work of the Great Commission by partnering with ministries and missionaries in the field." My goal this year is to learn more about the GCS of the NALC. I will share what I learn with you. In the meantime, you can read about them at: [thenalc.org/gcs](https://thenalc.org/gcs).

## WNALC Annual Gathering 2021, Corpus Christi, Texas

Yet ... Rejoice in the Lord from Habakkuk 3:17-18 was the theme for the 2021 Annual Gathering. Sixty-three women gathered at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi, Texas, for a day filled with worship, business and fellowship. The day started with a time of worship and communion served by the Rev. Dawn Rister, pastor at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chapin, South Carolina. Pastor Dawn gave an emotion-packed talk on how she rejoices in the Lord following her personal bout with COVID-19. Jacqui El Torro, the outgoing WNALC Chair, gave a short talk on her years as chair and referred us to her farewell report which was printed in the May-June 2021 newsletter.



The business portion of the meeting followed:

Reports were given for the ministry teams, including Facebook, newsletter, website, spiritual and Mission Banks.

The proposed budget for 2022 was presented and approved. The nominating committee presented the list of candidates for the 2021-2023 term, including Kim Isiminger, Georgia, who agreed to run for a second term; Ruth Reitmeyer, Texas; and Amy Werner, New Jersey; All three women were elected.

After lunch, Amy Werner gave a brief presentation on the mission district map.

Our guest speaker was the Rev. Amy Carpenter, co-pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Evans, Georgia. In her talk, entitled, "Are We There Yet?" Pastor Amy encouraged us to purpose our hearts to rejoice in the Lord even in the midst of trying times. Using our theme scripture of Habakkuk 3:17-19, she guided us in writing down those personal concerns that threaten to steal our joy and then to turn them into a prayer, resolving with the prophet Habakkuk, that no matter what, "... yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Lord God is my strength!"



Attendees were divided into groups by mission districts to discuss various ways to bring more women to our group.

Proposed revisions to the Operational Guidelines of the WNALC were presented and voted on. An explanation of the recommended revision follows.

Bishop Dan extended a greeting from the NALC before installing all seven members of the 2021-2022 council — Jill Nesheim, Kim Isiminger, Peggy Jording, Sandy Strohecker, Rachel Busch-Jones, Ruth Reitmeyer and Amy Werner.

The day concluded with cake and a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the WNALC. A special thank you to the ladies from the Texas churches who so willingly contributed to the gathering with their generous donations of floral centerpieces and "goody" bags for everyone. The TWC leatherette coasters as a gift for attendees to commemorate our anniversary. They were a nice souvenir to take home.

The Annual Gathering is always such a fun day and there is just never enough time to get in everything we would like to do!! See for yourself — we encourage you to start thinking now about coming to our next in-person Annual Gathering on August 8, 2023, at the Omni Oklahoma City!





## 2021 Proposed Revisions to the Operational Guidelines

The Women's Council proposed the following revisions to the WNALC Operational Guidelines at the Annual Gathering on August 3, 2021.

### Chapter 6, 6.02 currently reads:

The voting delegates of the Annual Gathering or any special called meeting shall consist of The Women's Council plus one person from each NALC congregational women's ministry who are present and not represented by a member the TWC.

### Proposed revised version of 6.02:

The voting delegates of the Annual Gathering or any special called meeting shall consist of The Women's Council plus one person from each NALC congregational women's ministry who are present ~~and not~~ represented by a member the TWC.

### Chapter 7, 7.07 currently reads:

Voting delegates at the Annual Gathering shall include the members of The Women's Council and one member from each congregation not represented by a member of TWC.

### Proposed revised version of 7.07:

Voting delegates at the Annual Gathering shall include the members of The Women's Council and one member from each congregation represented.

These proposals were voted on and passed at the Annual Gathering and are now presented to all congregations for approval. Each congregation will receive an email regarding the voting process no later than November 3, 2021. The women of the congregation should come to a consensus and submit either a "YES" or "NO" vote in response to the email. Votes must be received on or before February 3, 2022 to be included in the ratification count.

TWC recognizes that the women of our congregations serve in many and different ways. In some congregations there is one "Women of the Church" within which all Bibles studies and service group's function and in other congregations there are groups of women who participate in Bible studies and service groups without a formal "Women of the Church" organization. Whatever way the women of your congregation serve, we respectfully request that every congregation devises a plan that will allow each woman to have a voice in their congregation's vote.

If your congregation does not receive an email regarding ratification, please contact Jill Nesheim ([jcnquilter@gmail.com](mailto:jcnquilter@gmail.com)) or Rachel Busch-Jones ([rachelbuschjones@gmail.com](mailto:rachelbuschjones@gmail.com)).

## *Financial Matters*

This year's budget team of Jill Nesheim, WNALC Treasurer, and Peggy Jording, created the 2022 budget, below, and presented it at the Annual Gathering in Corpus Christi, Texas, where it was approved. This budget is based on the Virtual Gathering of 2020 because the 2022 gathering will again be virtual and thus the expenses are reduced. We were excited to be able to give totaling \$6,194.90 to ten scholarships of the attendees of this year's gathering because of the savings, and we were blessed by their attendance. Your generous support made these scholarships possible and make our work successful. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the WNALC and the Mission Bank program

### **WNALC Budget 2022**

#### INCOME:

December 2021

Projected Starting Balance in Account \$30,000.00

#### Donations

General \$9,000.00

Missions \$4,000.00

Total Donations \$13,000.00

#### Annual Gathering Income/Donations

Registrations

Mission \$1,000.00

General Fund

Total Annual Gathering Income/Donations \$1,000.00

Total Income \$14,000.00

Total Money Available \$44,000.00

#### EXPENSES:

##### General Expenses

Fall Retreat \$2,000.00

Internet and Tech \$500.00

Miscellaneous \$200.00

Total General Expenses \$2,700.00

Mission Donations \$5,000.00

##### Annual Gathering

Honorariums and thank you gifts \$400.00

Audio/Visual \$400.00

Online Registration Fee (80x\$3.50) \$280.00

Total Annual Gathering Expense \$1,080.00

Total Expenses \$8,780.00

PROJECTED ENDING BALANCE DECEMBER 2022 \$35,220.00

## Mission District News

### New Hope Lutheran, Hayti, South Dakota

Susan Everson of New Hope Lutheran near Hayti, South Dakota, sent a few photos showing what the ladies quilting group and the Sunday school classes have been busy doing! According to Susan, the ladies gather once a month to tie quilts for the NALC Disaster Response. The other work of assembling tops and backs and finishing the edges after they are tied are done by these ladies at their homes.

The Sunday school kids and teachers helped assemble 25 elementary and 10 high school kits to donate to the Disaster Response. Not to be left out, church members assembled 30 personal care kits to be donated!



### Atlantic Mission Region

### “Whispers of God’s Love” Women’s Retreat

By Robin Harris



Seventeen women from around the Atlantic Mission Region (AMR) met at Zoar Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lebanon, Pennsylvania on May 1, 2021, for the first annual AMR spring all-day Women’s Retreat — and the first in-person gathering in the AMR since October 2019! And what a wonderful day it was!

The theme for the retreat was *Whispers of God’s Love* based on Isaiah 43:1 (*I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine.*) We heard how God made each of us as His own beautiful creation, and all were reminded that He knows and loves each of us, His precious daughters. Great conversation, prayer, laughter, and even some tears flowed.

Much time was spent in the small discussion groups, but we did come together (rather spread out) for a fun ice breaker game, a wonderful lunch, and a closing worship. Gifts were given to all participants, and no one went home hungry. Amy Werner, our WNALC facilitator, gave a short presentation on the national WNALC organization. She even brought the large map of the U.S. and Canada with all NALC congregations marked and labeled with a dot.

Plans are being made for a morning gathering in October prior to our Regional Convocation where we will be assembling kits for Disaster Response. We are also looking forward to planning next year’s spring retreat — which may be an overnighter!

## Facebook Challenge

Our Facebook page has become a lot more active in recent months, but we're still hoping for more! In September 2020, Jill Nesheim issued a challenge to see if we could double our followers from 441 to 882. Anyone who invites someone to join will have their name put in a drawing for some fun quilted table runners made by Jill. How many winners? "Well, that depends on how many I make between now and when our membership reaches 882!" As of this newsletter, our Facebook page is up to 730 members! If you are not a member, please visit our Facebook page and ask to join. If you are a member, help us keep growing by inviting the women of your church (or anyone who would benefit from positive, faith-based posts) to join. Find our page at [facebook.com/groups/WNALC/](https://facebook.com/groups/WNALC/). Page members are welcome to post on the page so if your church is doing something special, please post it. We'd all enjoy reading about it.

## Register Now

Many thanks to those churches that have already updated their contact information for this year. If yours has not done this yet — it is not too late!

Visit [WNALC.org](http://WNALC.org) > About Us > Contact Us and click on the "Join the WNALC" button.

If there is not a women's group at your church, you are encouraged to register as an individual.

## Stay connected



[www.wnalc.org](http://www.wnalc.org)

## Contact Us

Jill Nesheim — [jcnquilter@gmail.com](mailto:jcnquilter@gmail.com)

Kim Isiminger — [kisiminger@gmail.com](mailto:kisiminger@gmail.com)

Sandy Strohecker — [ststrohecker52@gmail.com](mailto:ststrohecker52@gmail.com)

Peggy Jording — [peggyjording@gmail.com](mailto:peggyjording@gmail.com)

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Ruth Reitmeyer — [txmarm1@gmail.com](mailto:txmarm1@gmail.com)

Amy Werner — [awerner.wnalc@gmail.com](mailto:awerner.wnalc@gmail.com)

## Thank You

### For supporting the WNALC and our Mission Bank Partners!

WNALC General Fund donations help cover the costs of our website, the WNALC Annual Gathering, our display table at Lutheran Week and more.

WNALC Mission Fund donations are collected and divided evenly between the two Mission Bank recipients voted on at the previous year's Annual Gathering.

We thank you for choosing to support the Women of the NALC! We hope you continuously lift up the WNALC in your prayers that we would always serve according to God's will.

North American Lutheran Church  
PO Box 860565  
Minneapolis, MN 55486-0565

Be sure to make checks payable to the  
North American Lutheran Church  
and note on the memo line whether it is for  
**WNALC General Fund — or — WNALC Mission Fund**

## Newsletter Deadline

Photos and stories for the  
November/December  
newsletter should be emailed to Kim at  
[kisiminger@gmail.com](mailto:kisiminger@gmail.com) no later than

**November 1, 2021**